

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Tuesday, August 9, 2016, Ethics Board Meeting Minutes

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair Christian B. Flores called to order a meeting of the Ethics Board at 3:00 p.m. on August 9, 2016, in Room 201-B of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

The Ethics Board Administrator, Rebecca M. Janz, conducted a roll call. The following Board Members were present: Gary B. Manning, Christian B. Flores, Carol Wichmann, Christopher Meuler, Howard Schnoll, and Clarence Nicholas.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of May 17, 2016

Reverend Manning moved, Ms. Wichmann seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 Ethics Board meeting.

3.0 Report of the Executive Director

Rebecca M. Janz, Executive Director, and the Board discussed the proposed Ethics Training Module as well as updates on Hearing Procedures, Electronic Filing of Statements of Economic Interest and Legislation.

3.1 2016 2nd Quarter Lobbying Report from County Clerk, Joseph Czarnecki

These items were informational only. There was no action taken by the Board.

3.2 Ethics Introductory Training LMS Module

Rebecca M. Janz, Executive Director, reported that the LMS Ethics Introductory Training Module is complete. However, Human Resources will make some changes to the graphics. The Office of the County Executive will be requiring all employees in that department to complete the training by December 31, 2016. The Office of the Ethics Board is working with Human Resources to send an email to all other department heads to encourage them to require their employees complete the training as well. The Ethics Board requested more information on whether Human Resources is able to track who has taken the training.

3.3 Update on Electronic Filing of Statements of Economic Interests

Rebecca M. Janz, Executive Director, reported that the implementation is moving forward. Milwaukee County IMSD department has assigned a special team for the project. The team met with Cook County, Illinois IMSD team responsible for

online Statement of Economic Interests Filing to gather information and review its system for a basis from which to build.

3.4 Hearing Procedures Update

Ms. Janz reported that she has begun research on the hearing procedures of other jurisdictions and compared to what is required under the Milwaukee County Ethics Code.

3.5 Requested 2017 Budget

Ms. Janz and the Board reviewed the 2017 Budget request that was submitted to the County Executive's Office. Ms. Janz reported that the budget will be presented to the County Board for approval in October.

3.6 Resignation of Executive Director

Ms. Janz reported that she is resigning as the Executive Director of the Ethics Board effective August 26, 2016. The Board expressed its sincere appreciation for the value and professionalism she contributed to her role during her tenure with the County. The Board thanked her for her efforts and wished her well in her future endeavors.

4.0 Proposed Changes to How Often Pension Board Members and Employees File Statements of Economic Interests

Appearances: Attorney Jim Carroll - Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel and Counsel for the Pension Board

Attorney Carroll presented a proposed ordinance change regarding annual Statements of Economic Interests filing requirements for Milwaukee County Pension Board members and officers. Attorney Carroll indicated the County Board is requesting the Ethics Board respond as to whether it feels the ordinance change is appropriate. The Ethics Board requested Mr. Carroll gather more information as to what specific guidance the County Board is seeking so it may respond appropriately.

5.0 Closed Session

At 3:32 p.m., Mr. Nicholas moved, Ms. Wichmann seconded, and the Board voted 5-0 to go into closed session.

19.85 (1) (f) The Board may investigate charges against specific persons.

19.85 (1) (g) The Board may confer with legal counsel concerning litigation strategy.

19.85(1) (h) The Board's deliberations on requests for advice under the ethics code shall be in closed session.

At 4:35 p.m., after discussion in closed session, Ms. Wichmann moved, Mr. Meuler seconded, and the Board voted (5-0) to reconvene in open session.

4.0 Adjournment

Ms. Wichmann moved, Reverend Manning seconded, and the Board adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Stephanie Hunnicutt
Paralegal, Ethics Board